

# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

### General

1. The only foreign correspondents who remained in Prague after the expulsion of Western news agencies were the representatives of the Soviet and Satellite news agencies and of some Western Communist newspapers. The principal source of information for foreign correspondents is the official Czechoslovak Press Agency (CTK), located on Ulice Opletalova in Prague, where correspondents collect daily news bulletins. News which is widely known but unpublished is called special information, labelled "confidential", and distributed in sealed envelopes to foreign correspondents and chief editors of local dailies. The Satellite correspondents forward these envelopes by diplomatic pouch to their home agencies.
2. The representatives of the Satellite news agencies are charged by their superiors and respective foreign ministries with collecting "inside" political information. Correspondents of the Hungarian news agency (MTI) regularly send reports about the differences of opinion and intrigues within the Czechoslovak Communist Party leadership and background material and comments on political trials. The Polish correspondent showed keen interest in the Czechoslovak attempt to assimilate the Polish minority in the Cesky Tesin area.  
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3. While foreign correspondents show no particular interest in military or economic fields and do not appear to be engaged in clandestine intelligence activity, they supplement the official CTK bulletins with information obtained from their contacts in the Ministry of Information,<sup>1</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and from other competent officials.

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(NOTE: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

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Soviet and Satellite Correspondents

7. Edith Braun, a Czech of bourgeois origin who had previously worked in the office of former War Minister Reicin, was the MTI correspondent from 1952 to early 1954, at which time she was dismissed on grounds of not being a Hungarian national. No new MTI correspondent had been named by May 1954.
8. Dezső Vozari, MTI correspondent in Berlin, was the MTI correspondent in Prague from 1946 to 1952.
9. Kowalska (fnu), PAP correspondent in Prague, is a veteran Communist and a good friend of Edith Braun. Kowalska is extremely well informed on all Party matters and has knowledge of decisions before they have been publicly discussed or published. She takes large quantities of Czech costume jewelry on her frequent trips to Warsaw, obviously in order to sell it.
10. Kurkowski (fnu) has been the Pravda correspondent in Prague for some time.

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11. Mendelejev (fnu), Tass correspondent, receives preferential treatment from the Ministry of Information and other government offices. The CTK bulletins are telegraphed (teleprinted) to his luxurious villa near Prague Castle and from there are telephoned to Moscow. Mendelejev gives a five-o'clock tea every week for foreign journalists from Satellite countries.
12. Voboriyev (fnu) has been the Novoye Vremya correspondent in Prague for some time.
13. The representatives of the Chinese, East German, Rumanian, and Bulgarian news agencies maintain their offices in their respective legations.

International Broadcasting Wave Distribution Committee

14. The secretariat of the International Broadcasting Wave-Distribution Committee, which has its headquarters in Prague, is reported to be engaged in some type of confidential, unofficial activity. The extremely strict "cadre examination" of applicants and hints from some employees suggest confirmation of this report.
15. Sonya Apfelbekova, secretary to the Soviet chief of the secretariat, was previously employed at the radio monitoring station. [REDACTED]

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16. Zelezny (fnu), executive secretary of the committee since 1952, is a native of the Cesky Tesin area and was in Moscow throughout World War II. He is reported to work for the Soviet intelligence service. Although his numerous enemies in Party headquarters have made repeated attempts to remove him, they have not been successful because high Soviet personalities have always intervened in Zelezny's behalf.<sup>4</sup>

1. [REDACTED] Comment: The Ministry of Information and Enlightenment was abolished in the reorganization on 31 January 1953. Substantially the same functions are now performed by the Ministry of Culture, established on 11 September 1953.

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2. [REDACTED]
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